

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

---

COMMITTEE	<b>Council</b>
DATE	<b>13<sup>th</sup> May 2015</b>
DIRECTOR	<b>Gayle Gorman</b>
TITLE OF REPORT	<b>Fishing Memorial Working Group</b>
REPORT NUMBER	<b>ECS/15/022</b>
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	<b>Yes</b>

---

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The report lays out the proposed roles, remit and membership of a short life working group, to be established to commission a memorial to the fishing industry.

### **2. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

It is recommended that Council:- Establishes the Fishing Industry Memorial Working Group comprising five people, being three members (including the Lord Provost), one external representative (Mr Douglas Paterson) and one external adviser;

- (1) Approves the remit for the Working Group as being to agree (a) a budget for the commission and installation of the works; (b) the preferred site for the piece; (c) the commissioning process, shortlisting and selection of the artist and art form; (d) the timescale for completion; and (e) any formal opening event, including the invitation of dignitaries; and
- (2) Agrees that the Working group meets cyclically, or more frequently as required, on the understanding that during the construction of the piece, if there is no business for consideration, progress reports will be sent to each member of the Group.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

In the Common Good budget for 2015/16 Council approved £50,000 towards a commission to commemorate the fishing industry. The Scottish Government has also confirmed a contribution of £50,000. There are likely to be some additional private sponsors with links to the industry, but this has to be confirmed. Further clarification is being sought by Officers and a full budget will be agreed at the first meeting of the Working Group. Whilst the budgets for both the Gordon

Highlanders and Robert the Bruce statues were £125,000 each, there is no lower or upper limit and the commission will be budgeted accordingly.

Officers do not propose a public fundraising scheme as part of the initiative. This could lead to significant delays in both commissioning an artist whilst a final budget is established and as a consequence could add up to 18 months onto the project duration.

#### **4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

Legal Services will be required to scope and agree the commission and resulting contract. Committee Services will provide clerking for the working group. In relation to the installation of any artwork, subject to the agreed art form, resources may be required to excavate or otherwise investigate a proposed location in order to ascertain the implications for siting the work. Aberdeen City Council has developed a Public Art toolkit which provides online support and best practice when commissioning artworks. The Working Group will use this framework to ensure the project is carried out to maximise the benefit of the investment.

#### **5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES**

On 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014 Council approved the following motion by Lord Provost George Adam:

‘That Aberdeen City Council agrees to take forward approaches from associates of the local fishing industry to create an appropriate and lasting memorial to the men and women who lived, worked and died in it, in peacetime and in war, and to commemorate the major contribution which fishing has made to the city’s life and heritage. Officers are instructed to report on the establishment of a small working group, the scope of a commission, and confirmation of a budget with a view to obtaining contributions to build on external funds already secured.’

##### **Establishing a small working group:-**

The Working Group will comprise five people, being three members (including the Lord Provost), one external member involved in work already undertaken on the project and one external adviser. The Lord Provost has suggested that Mr Douglas Paterson be appointed as the external representative given the work he has undertaken in bringing the project to its current position.

##### **Frequency of meetings:-**

At least cyclical, with more frequent meetings to be held as business requires it. If there is no business for consideration during construction, then instead progress reports can be sent to members of the Group.

##### **Future role:-**

This is a short life Working Group which will exist for the lifetime of the project.

**Remit:-**

The Working Group will agree: (1) a budget for the commission and installation of the works; (2) the preferred site for the piece; (3) the commissioning process, shortlisting and selection of the artist and art form; (4) the timescale for completion; and (5) any formal opening event, including the invitation of dignitaries.

**The scope of a commission:-**

At the first meeting of the Fishing Industry Memorial Working Group, officers will propose the scope of a commission. This cannot be determined until the budget is confirmed and the site agreed.

**Confirmation of budget:-**

£50,000 has been agreed in 2015/16 from the Common Good fund, and the same amount will be contributed by the Scottish Government. Officers will report back to the first meeting of the Working Group on the final budget including the amount of private sponsorship secured.

## **6. IMPACT**

This report relates to ‘Aberdeen – the Smarter City’, in particular to:

- We will improve access to and increase participation in arts and culture by providing opportunities for citizens and visitors to experience a broad range of high quality arts and cultural activities
- We aspire to be recognised as a City of Culture, a place of excellence for culture and arts by promoting Aberdeen as a cultural centre hosting high quality and diverse cultural events for the whole community and beyond

The report is also aligned to the city’s Cultural Strategy, ‘Vibrant Aberdeen’ which includes the key objectives of:

- Establishing a cohesive cultural sector
- Increasing community engagement in cultural activity
- Improving the city’s cultural profile
- Increasing investment in culture
- Effectively monitoring and evaluating the impact of culture

**Public –**

The fishing industry has been recognised as having a significant long term impact on the City of Aberdeen. It is likely that organisations and individuals associated with the industry will be interested in the City’s intentions to commemorate this aspect of heritage, and what the completed art work will look like, including where this is sited. This can

be addressed through timely staged press releases and other means of communication, including social networking.

The motion from the Lord Provost recognises the contribution of both men and women to the industry, and the Working Group will ensure that the commission reflects this.

## **7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK**

The risks in relation to this project are primarily relating to the timeline which will be developed to make sure the project is delivered timeously and within budget. The commission will specify a sum within which the artwork is to be delivered, and a timescale, ensuring the commissioned artist is complying with all dates and deadlines. Payments will be made according to agreed progress a final payment will not be made until completion. Depending on the agreed location, some consideration may need to be given to any related building or construction works which could affect the timescale.

## **8. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Agenda and minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014 Council meeting.

## **9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

Lesley Thomson, Cultural Policy and Partnerships Manager  
[lthomson@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:lthomson@aberdeencity.gov.uk)  
01224 522499

Roderick MacBeath, Head of Democratic Services  
[rmacbeath@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:rmacbeath@aberdeencity.gov.uk)  
01224 523054